

Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact

Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2010-0026EA Lower Sand Canyon Acquisition

1.0 DECISION

It is my decision to approve the proposed action, the acquisition of private property identified as the Lower Sand Canyon Acquisition (the Sand Canyon stone house), representing 3.83 acres. The property will be acquired at the appraised fair market value, as determined by the Department of the Interior's Appraisal Services Directorate.

This acquisition is made pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Title II, Section 205.

I have reviewed the environmental assessment prepared for this proposed action, including the analyses of potentially significant environmental impacts.

2.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

My review of the analysis of the environmental consequences displayed in the environmental assessment for this project, my understanding of the level of anticipated effects, and my familiarity with projects similar in nature, indicates to me that this is not a major federal action as defined in 40 CFR 1508.18.

I considered the 10 intensity factors required for significance determinations under 40 CFR 1508.27 and have determined that no significant effects on the quality of the human, biological or physical environment (as defined at 40 CFR 1508.27) are anticipated within either the context or intensity of the selected alternative.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

1. Proposed Action – Purchasing the parcel at fair market value for inclusion into Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.
2. No Action Alternative – Not acquiring the parcel of private property for inclusion into Canyon of the Ancients National Monument.

4.0 RATIONALE FOR MY DECISION

I have determined that the proposed action is the most reasonable alternative. I have determined that this action will not have significant impacts on the human environment and an EIS is not required. This decision is in conformance with the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Resource Management Plan/EIS, Record of Decision (June 2010) and the Monument Proclamation.

I considered the No Action alternative. I did not select the No Action Alternative because I determined that it would not contribute towards enhancing the values of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Acquisition of the property has been under consideration since 2003, when parking concerns and Sand Canyon trailhead management issues were raised in a “Collaborative, Community-Based Planning” workshop hosted in Cortez by the Sonoran Institute. In 2009, the BLM received letters of support for the acquisition—citing resolution of safety and parking concerns, value for visitor information services, value for public interpretation and education, and significance related to the history of McElmo Canyon.

6.0 MITIGATION MEASURES/COMPLIANCE MONITORING

Mitigation measures were identified, as necessary for each affected resource, in the Environmental Assessment.

7.0 PREPARATION AND REVIEWS

Environmental Coordinator: Deborah Kill

8.0 AUTHORIZED OFFICER’S DECISION APPROVING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Authorizing Official: signed Date: 09/21/2010

LouAnn Jacobson
Manager, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

9.0 APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES

If you do not agree with this decision and believe you will be adversely affected by it, you may appeal to the Office of Hearings and Appeals as described in 43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413.

Any Notice of Appeal must be postmarked or received within 30 calendar days of this decision by:

Mark Stiles
Center Manager
San Juan Public Lands Center
15 Burnett Court
Durango, CO 81301

A copy of the appeal must also be sent to both:

Regional Solicitor
Rocky Mountain Region
755 Parfet Street
Suite 151
Lakewood, CO 80215

Interior Board of Land Appeals
Office of Hearings and Appeals
US Department of the Interior
801 North Quincy Street, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

Within 30 calendar days after filing the Notice of Appeal, a complete statement of reasons why the appeal is being filed must be received at the above addresses. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed is in error. If all your reasons were fully stated in the Notice of Appeal, no additional statement is necessary.